



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Aerial view of the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, Calif., and surrounding area.

Photo by Chris Pope

HSEM DIRECTOR OBSERVES ROSE BOWL PREPARATIONS – Many people spent New Year's Day watching the Rose Bowl Parade and football game on TV. But N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Christopher M. Pope got a different view of the events. At the invitation of Chris Vicino, Deputy Pasadena, Calif., Police Chief, Pope spent nearly four days observing security operations for the events, which attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators celebrating the New Year. Pope said he was very impressed by the massive (but discrete!) federal presence at the events and the high level of cooperation among local, county, state and federal agencies.

Personnel from a Civil Support Unit from the California National Guard, L.A. County and Pasadena Fire Departments, the Irvine, Calif., police department and private security agencies provided assistance. All were coordinated by a joint command, using the NIMS model. There were no incidents to mar this year's festivities.

Pope said the whole operation is very similar to major races at N.H. International Speedway, which attracts nearly as many people. Both are designed as family events which attract large numbers of spectators and RVs and both permit the controlled use of alcoholic beverages.

ICE STORM KNOCKS OUT POWER IN SOUTHERN NH – Freezing rain and ice knocked out power to thousands of homes and businesses in three southern New Hampshire counties on Monday, January 15th, prompting some communities to cancel schools and open emergency shelters and warming stations. Some utility customers were without power for nearly five days. Public Service Company of New Hampshire reported a maximum of 38,000 customers without power, but that number kept changing. As crews restored power in one area it went out in another. Unitil reported 5,500 outages in the Seacoast area and the N.H. Electric Co-op had about 1,500 members out in the Raymond area. The affected area included Rockingham, Hillsborough and Cheshire counties.

PSNH Chief Executive Officer Gary Long described the storm as second only to the ice storm of January, 1998, in its impact on the utility. At its peak, PSNH had 145 two-person crews working on restoration, with the company's own personnel reinforced by line crews from Massachusetts and Connecticut, private contractors and the N.H. Co-op. Despite the lack of power and extreme cold, most people were only inconvenienced by the event. Shelters or warming stations were opened in Nashua, Merrimack, Derry, Wilton, Hampstead and Londonderry for those who needed respite or couldn't stay in their homes. Power was restored to all customers by Friday, January 19th.

N.H. GUARD UNIT PASSES INSPECTION - The N.H. National Guard's 12th Civil Support Team achieved an important milestone toward becoming a certified asset to first responders when it scored 99 percent on a grueling, two-day evaluation conducted last week by the National Guard Bureau. The inspection, given by the Bureau's Standardization, Evaluation and Assistance Team, or SEAT, is required every 18 months for all state CSTs to ensure they are in compliance with federal, state, and military regulations. Out of 38 CSTs evaluated across the country, New Hampshire had the second highest score. Iowa was first with 100 percent.

A CST is a 22-member unit consisting of National Guard soldiers and airmen who can support first responders when a chemical, biological, radiation, nuclear or high yield explosive (CBRNE) event occurs or is suspected anywhere in the United States or its territories. The team has four primary capabilities: identifying a CBRNE agent or substance; assessing the current and projected consequences; advising on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state and federal support.

FLOOD VICTIMS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HELP – The Statewide Disaster Recovery Steering Committee is continuing its efforts to help the remaining victims of last May's floods to get back in their homes. Half-a-dozen families are still unable to get back in their homes and other families still need assistance of various kinds. Twenty volunteers have been trained as Housing Plan Advocates to assist flood victims with FEMA housing plans, which are required for flood victims to continue to receive federal housing assistance.

A volunteer group, *No Place Like Home*, has reached agreement with 13 secondary schools in New Hampshire to build modular homes. Some of the modular homes will be provided to New Hampshire flood victims. Others will be shipped to Louisiana for Katrina victims. FEMA is looking at this effort as a model of cooperation between state, federal and grass-roots organizations.

In February, youth volunteers organized by Grace Community Church in Rochester will be helping flood victims. During the weekend of February 9th they will be working on flooring, painting and other projects needed to put the finishing touches on flood repairs.

DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDES FIRST AID - Psychological First Aid is an emerging intervention that can be used in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management is offering a four-hour course to first responders, public health providers, behavioral health professionals and other disaster workers. To date, this training has been delivered on approximately 13 occasions for over 600 people. Wherever there is a need for the application of physical first aid, there can be a need for the application of psychological first aid. The Institute of Medicine, a component of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., defines PFA as "a set of skills identified to limit distress and negative health behaviors that can increase fear, arousal and subsequent health care utilization." The primary goal of PFA is to re-establish immediate coping for individuals affected by disasters. This includes victims, family members and disaster workers. Sub-goals of PFA are to: provide support, reduce lethality and provide linkage to helping resources. It can be applied in almost any setting for any age group.

Upcoming training classes will be held in Berlin on March 2nd, and in Plymouth and Keene at dates to be determined. For more information, contact Paul Deignan at HSEM, 271-2231x 4173 or pdeignan@nhoem.state.nh.us.